

REMARKS

Claims 17 and 19-23 currently appear in this application. The Office Action of, 2004, has been carefully studied. These claims define novel and unobvious subject matter under Sections 102 and 103 of 35 U.S.C., and therefore should be allowed. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration, entry of the present amendment, and formal allowance of the claims.

Art Rejections

Claims 1-9, 11, 14-16 and 18 are now rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP'396.

As the present amendment cancels claims 1-9, 11, 14-16 and 18, this rejection is now moot.

Claim Objections

Claims 10, 12, 13, 17 and 19-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 10, 12 and 13 have been rewritten as new claims 21-23, respectively. Claims 17, 19 and 20 depended from claims 10, 12, and 13, respectively. Claims 17, 19 and 20 have been amended to change their dependency from claims 21, 22 and 23, respectively.

Appln. No. 09/915,568
Amd. dated October 7, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 10, 2004

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted
that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and
favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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